

# OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

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UNION CARBIDE NUCLEAR COMPANY



POST OFFICE BOX Y  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

July 17, 1961

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

Since I talked to you last time we have gotten somewhat involved with NASA in regard to the forthcoming NERV test and possibly later tests.

We are planning to send up something in the NERV Shot which will take place in November. We don't really expect to get much out of it, but it will give us experience in handling material and getting prepared for later tests. It is planned for our Drs. Bender and Adler to go out to California to Ames Research Center early in August to do some preliminary testing for tissue culture, as well as some fungus spores, which we are planning to send up.

During the time they are there, I thought it would be a good idea to stop by and discuss with you our plans in regard to this work, and especially our ideas for some testing in connection with the Mars shot. This is if you are available early in August and if NASA doesn't change its mind in regard to these tests. We will write you in plenty of time so that you could let us know then whether you will be available.

I wanted to bring up another point. As you probably know, we lost one of our bacteriologists, Manfred Engel, who died suddenly of a heart attack. If you have a student who will be available either this fall or next spring, we would like very much to know about him and see if we could consider him. The individual does not need to have too much radiation background because we can teach him the radiation part of the work rather easily, but he should be a good biologist or geneticist, or in any case a good microbiologist. If you have anyone or hear of anyone, I would greatly appreciate your letting me know.

The third point I wanted to bring up is the possibility of your stopping by here on your next trip East. There are many things going on, especially in the immunological field as well as in others, that you might be interested in; and a stay here of two or three days should be mutually beneficial if you have the time. We will be glad to contribute towards your travel expenses to Oak Ridge from anywhere in the East.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alex.".

Alexander Hollaender  
Biology Division

AH:mjl